

Interesting Facts about the **YANAHLI WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA**

A Land of Cultural Heritage

- ⊕ “Yanahli” is a Chickasaw word meaning to flow, as in a river. The name was chosen to reflect the Chickasaw heritage and the tremendous impact the river and the people who lived and camped along it have had on the region. In the 18th century, the Chickasaw language was the primary language used for inter-tribal communication by all tribes along the lower Mississippi River. *(Source: www.chickasaw.net)*
- ⊕ Evidence of every cultural period in the Southeast has been found along the river—from the end of the last Ice Age through the early statehood of Tennessee. People have lived, hunted and farmed along the river for at least 11,000 years.
- ⊕ Archaeological investigations conducted by the University of Tennessee under contract with TVA revealed that a pre-historic Indian site at Cheek Bend Cave revealed that small bands of hunters and gatherers had used the cave for over 10,000 years. *(Source: TDEC Division of Archaeology archives)*
- ⊕ In the late 1800’s and early 1900’s, settlers moved to the area and began farming the land. Remnants of mills such as Holland’s Mill and Branch’s Mill remain as monuments to the lives that were built along the Duck River. Much of the land through which the Duck River flows today is agricultural, reflecting this long-standing heritage.
- ⊕ Columbia and the Duck River were the site of Civil War actions during November and December of 1864. General John Bell Hood took Columbia during a skirmish with Union Major General John Schofield in November and Major General Nathan Bedford Forrest defended the river crossings here in December. *(Source: www.americancivilwar.com)*

A Globally Significant Natural Treasure

- ⊕ According to the Nature Conservancy, the Upper Duck River watershed, including the section that flows through the new wildlife management area, contains the second highest number (33) of at-risk fish and mussel species, as well as the second highest number (13) of federally endangered fish and mussel species in the nation. Over 500 species including aquatic plants, fish and invertebrates have been documented in the Duck River, including at least 39 mussel and 84 fish species.